

Section 1975e, Pub. L. 98-183, §7, Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1307; Pub. L. 101-180, §2(1), Nov. 28, 1989, 103 Stat. 1325; Pub. L. 102-167, §3, Nov. 26, 1991, 105 Stat. 1101; Pub. L. 102-400, §2, Oct. 7, 1992, 106 Stat. 1955, authorized appropriations to carry out this chapter. See section 1975c of this title.

A prior section 1975e, Pub. L. 85-315, pt. I, §106, Sept. 9, 1957, 71 Stat. 636; Pub. L. 90-198, §2, Dec. 14, 1967, 81 Stat. 582; Pub. L. 91-521, §3, Nov. 25, 1970, 84 Stat. 1356; Pub. L. 92-64, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 166; Pub. L. 92-496, §6, Oct. 14, 1972, 86 Stat. 814; Pub. L. 94-292, §2, May 27, 1976, 90 Stat. 524; Pub. L. 95-132, §2, Oct. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1157; Pub. L. 95-444, §7, Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1068; Pub. L. 96-81, §3, Oct. 6, 1979, 93 Stat. 642; Pub. L. 96-447, §2, Oct. 13, 1980, 94 Stat. 1894, related to authorization of appropriations for this chapter. See Codification note set out preceding section 1975 of this title.

Section 1975f, Pub. L. 98-183, §8, Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1307; Pub. L. 101-180, §2(2), Nov. 28, 1989, 103 Stat. 1325; Pub. L. 102-167, §4, Nov. 26, 1991, 105 Stat. 1101, provided termination date for this chapter. See section 1975d of this title.

CHAPTER 21—CIVIL RIGHTS

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERALLY

Sec.	
1981.	Equal rights under the law.
1981a.	Damages in cases of intentional discrimination in employment.
1982.	Property rights of citizens.
1983.	Civil action for deprivation of rights.
1984.	Omitted.
1985.	Conspiracy to interfere with civil rights.
1986.	Action for neglect to prevent.
1987.	Prosecution of violation of certain laws.
1988.	Proceedings in vindication of civil rights.
1989.	United States magistrate judges; appointment of persons to execute warrants.
1990.	Marshal to obey precepts; refusing to receive or execute process.
1991.	Fees; persons appointed to execute process.
1992.	Speedy trial.
1993.	Repealed.
1994.	Peonage abolished.
1995.	Criminal contempt proceedings; penalties; trial by jury.
1996.	Protection and preservation of traditional religions of Native Americans.
1996a.	Traditional Indian religious use of peyote.
1996b.	Interethnic adoption.

SUBCHAPTER I-A—INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS

1997.	Definitions.
1997a.	Initiation of civil actions.
1997a-1.	Subpoena authority.
1997b.	Certification requirements; Attorney General to personally sign certification.
1997c.	Intervention in actions.
1997d.	Prohibition of retaliation.
1997e.	Suits by prisoners.
1997f.	Report to Congress.
1997g.	Priorities for use of funds.
1997h.	Notice to Federal departments.
1997i.	Disclaimer respecting standards of care.
1997j.	Disclaimer respecting private litigation.

SUBCHAPTER II—PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

2000a.	Prohibition against discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation.
2000a-1.	Prohibition against discrimination or segregation required by any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, rule or order of a State or State agency.

Sec.	
2000a-2.	Prohibition against deprivation of, interference with, and punishment for exercising rights and privileges secured by section 2000a or 2000a-1 of this title.
2000a-3.	Civil actions for injunctive relief.
2000a-4.	Community Relations Service; investigations and hearings; executive session; release of testimony; duty to bring about voluntary settlements.
2000a-5.	Civil actions by the Attorney General.
2000a-6.	Jurisdiction; exhaustion of other remedies; exclusiveness of remedies; assertion of rights based on other Federal or State laws and pursuit of remedies for enforcement of such rights.

SUBCHAPTER III—PUBLIC FACILITIES

2000b.	Civil actions by the Attorney General.
2000b-1.	Liability of United States for costs and attorney's fee.
2000b-2.	Personal suits for relief against discrimination in public facilities.
2000b-3.	"Complaint" defined.

SUBCHAPTER IV—PUBLIC EDUCATION

2000c.	Definitions.
2000c-1.	Omitted.
2000c-2.	Technical assistance in preparation, adoption, and implementation of plans for desegregation of public schools.
2000c-3.	Training institutes; stipends; travel allowances.
2000c-4.	Grants for inservice training in dealing with and for employment of specialists to advise in problems incident to desegregation; factors for consideration in making grants and fixing amounts, terms, and conditions.
2000c-5.	Payments; adjustments; advances or reimbursement; installments.
2000c-6.	Civil actions by the Attorney General.
2000c-7.	Liability of United States for costs.
2000c-8.	Personal suits for relief against discrimination in public education.
2000c-9.	Classification and assignment.

SUBCHAPTER V—FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS

2000d.	Prohibition against exclusion from participation in, denial of benefits of, and discrimination under federally assisted programs on ground of race, color, or national origin.
2000d-1.	Federal authority and financial assistance to programs or activities by way of grant, loan, or contract other than contract of insurance or guaranty; rules and regulations; approval by President; compliance with requirements; reports to Congressional committees; effective date of administrative action.
2000d-2.	Judicial review; administrative procedure provisions.
2000d-3.	Construction of provisions not to authorize administrative action with respect to employment practices except where primary objective of Federal financial assistance is to provide employment.
2000d-4.	Federal authority and financial assistance to programs or activities by way of contract of insurance or guaranty.
2000d-4a.	"Program or activity" and "program" defined.
2000d-5.	Prohibited deferral of action on applications by local educational agencies seeking Federal funds for alleged non-compliance with Civil Rights Act.
2000d-6.	Policy of United States as to application of nondiscrimination provisions in schools of local educational agencies.

Sec.	
2000d-7.	Civil rights remedies equalization.
SUBCHAPTER VI—EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	
2000e.	Definitions.
2000e-1.	Exemption.
2000e-2.	Unlawful employment practices.
2000e-3.	Other unlawful employment practices.
2000e-4.	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
2000e-5.	Enforcement provisions.
2000e-6.	Civil actions by the Attorney General.
2000e-7.	Effect on State laws.
2000e-8.	Investigations.
2000e-9.	Conduct of hearings and investigations pursuant to section 161 of title 29.
2000e-10.	Posting of notices; penalties.
2000e-11.	Veterans' special rights or preference.
2000e-12.	Regulations; conformity of regulations with administrative procedure provisions; reliance on interpretations and instructions of Commission.
2000e-13.	Application to personnel of Commission of sections 111 and 1114 of title 18; punishment for violation of section 1114 of title 18.
2000e-14.	Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council; establishment; composition; duties; report to President and Congress.
2000e-15.	Presidential conferences; acquaintance of leadership with provisions for employment rights and obligations; plans for fair administration; membership.
2000e-16.	Employment by Federal Government.
2000e-16a.	Short title; purpose; definition.
2000e-16b.	Discriminatory practices prohibited.
2000e-16c.	Coverage of previously exempt State employees.
2000e-17.	Procedure for denial, withholding, termination, or suspension of Government contract subsequent to acceptance by Government of affirmative action plan of employer; time of acceptance of plan.

SUBCHAPTER VII—REGISTRATION AND VOTING STATISTICS

2000f.	Survey for compilation of registration and voting statistics; geographical areas; scope; application of census provisions; voluntary disclosure; advising of right not to furnish information.
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SUBCHAPTER VIII—COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

2000g.	Establishment of Service; Director of Service; appointment, term; personnel.
2000g-1.	Functions of Service.
2000g-2.	Cooperation with other agencies; conciliation assistance in confidence and without publicity; information as confidential; restriction on performance of investigative or prosecuting functions; violations and penalties.
2000g-3.	Reports to Congress.

SUBCHAPTER IX—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

2000h.	Criminal contempt proceedings: trial by jury, criminal practice, penalties, exceptions, intent; civil contempt proceedings.
2000h-1.	Double jeopardy; specific crimes and criminal contempts.
2000h-2.	Intervention by Attorney General; denial of equal protection on account of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
2000h-3.	Construction of provisions not to affect authority of Attorney General, etc., to institute or intervene in actions or proceedings.

Sec.	
2000h-4.	Construction of provisions not to exclude operation of State laws and not to invalidate consistent State laws.
2000h-5.	Authorization of appropriations.
2000h-6.	Separability.

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERALLY

§ 1981. Equal rights under the law

(a) Statement of equal rights

All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, and to the full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of persons and property as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, penalties, taxes, licenses, and exactions of every kind, and to no other.

(b) "Make and enforce contracts" defined

For purposes of this section, the term "make and enforce contracts" includes the making, performance, modification, and termination of contracts, and the enjoyment of all benefits, privileges, terms, and conditions of the contractual relationship.

(c) Protection against impairment

The rights protected by this section are protected against impairment by nongovernmental discrimination and impairment under color of State law.

(R.S. § 1977; Pub. L. 102-166, title I, § 101, Nov. 21, 1991, 105 Stat. 1071.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 1977 derived from act May 31, 1870, ch. 114, § 16, 16 Stat. 144.

Section was formerly classified to section 41 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-166 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Section 402 of Pub. L. 102-166 provided that: "(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, this Act [see Short Title of 1991 Amendment note below] and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon enactment [Nov. 21, 1991]."

"(b) CERTAIN DISPARATE IMPACT CASES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, nothing in this Act shall apply to any disparate impact case for which a complaint was filed before March 1, 1975, and for which an initial decision was rendered after October 30, 1983."

SHORT TITLE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 102-166 provided that: "This Act [enacting section 1981a of this title and sections 601 and 1201 to 1224 of Title 2, The Congress, amending this section and sections 1988, 2000e, 2000e-1, 2000e-2, 2000e-4, 2000e-5, 2000e-16, 12111, 12112, and 12209 of this title, and section 626 of Title 29, Labor, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 2000e and 2000e-4 of this title, and section 1a-5 of Title 16, Conservation] may be cited as the 'Civil Rights Act of 1991'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-559, which amended section 1988 of this title, is known as "The Civil Rights Attorney's Fees